



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/

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Contact: Heather Foley
517-373-1707

Victory for seniors as Sen. Toy's appliance service program legislation signed

LANSING – State Sen. Laura Toy was on hand today for the signing of a bill she sponsored to allow utilities to continue offering appliance service programs. Utilities could maintain the programs as long as certain requirements were met.

“This important and consumer-friendly bill will help Michigan’s residents, especially our seniors on fixed incomes,” Toy said. “Having it signed into law will put the minds of many Michigan residents at ease.”

Senate Bill 612 spells out certain circumstances under which a regulated utility could maintain a repair and servicing program. It requires the Public Service Commission to ensure that ratepayers are not subsidizing the program and prohibits the utility from promoting the program in its utility bills.

Specifically, the bill would allow Consumers Energy to continue offering its successful and popular furnace- and appliance-repair program. Approximately 175,000 customers use the program.

“I heard from hundreds of my constituents who supported allowing utilities to continue offering appliance repair programs to their customers,” Toy said. “This new law is a major victory for the seniors who so desperately depend on these programs.”

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